cereals, vegetables, etc. The several articles made and grown in these industrial homes and agricultural farms could be easily disposed of and thus the homes might be gradually placed on a self-supporting basis. The orphans after their training should be settled in small agricultural holdings consisting of three acres each, so that they might become self-reliant and respectable citizens without depending for their subsistence on the charity and beneficence of the public.

Dewan's reply.—I do not believe in orphanages run by the State. Such orphanages cannot work properly, nor can the Government establish orphanages for particular classes or communities. Government are now giving grants to six orphanages where children are given primary and technical education. They are run by private persons who have made it their life-business. It is only such people that can run these institutions efficiently and properly. When more orphanages are established, Government will be glad to give them grants, if they deserve help and encouragement.

V. PUBLIC WORKS.

55. Defects in the working of the Irrigation system in Nanjinad and some suggestions for remedying them.

Mr. Kanakku Matevan Pillai Kumaraswami Pillai (Member, Agastisvaram Taluk) referred to the Pachipara dam and reservoir constructed at a cost of about 80 lakhs of rupees and said that the water of the reservoir was being used for irrigating more lands than were contemplated in the original scheme. The quantity of water impounded in the reservoir was quite inadequate to meet the demands of 63,795 acres of converted and 3,500 acres of unconverted lands. The remedy lay either in restricting the cultivable area in proportion to the quantity of water impounded in the reservoir or providing extra sources of water supply, if it was considered necessary to feed all the existing lands. In spite of the vast extent of paddy lands in existence in Nanjinad, it would be a great pity if they were left uncultivated merely for want of sufficient water supply. He referred to Mr. Horsley's view that, as the water impounded in the Pachipara reservoir would not be sufficient for all the wet lands, additional reservoirs should be constructed at Shoorlacode, Thadicaranconam, Alatturayar, Poigayar, Vambar, Perunikalambu and Tiruvayar.

He also made reference to the views of Mr. Barton, one of the former Chief Engineers of the State, that the Paralayar should be dammed to prevent water running to waste and a reservoir constructed at Perunchani. Unless some of the above reservoirs were constructed, the Pachipara reservoir alone would not be able to supply water to all the wet lands since the tank beds had all been sold away and no water could be stored in them as of old. As scarcity of water was very keenly felt, he urged the necessity of putting up some of the reservoirs referred to, and of improving the existing tanks.

He mentioned the following channels branching from Pachipara as being useful to his taluk for irrigation, viz., Tovala channel, Pazhayar, Nanjinad Puthanar Channel, Alathorayar, and Anandanar.

As regards the Tovala Channel, the Member said that, though its holding capacity was only 3 feet, 5½ feet of water were being let into the channel, with the result that breaches occurred due to high pressure, making the agriculturists lose everything, and that the water in the channel did not reach the fields in the last block. Further, the system of distributaries being cut by the ryots led to much inconvenience in practice and he suggested that lands should be acquired by Government and arrangements made to take water to all the fields simultaneously. The defects were prominent in the Anandanar, the Asaripallamkal and other places. To remedy these grievances the Member suggested that the Tovala Channel should be widened and that, if it was not possible to do so on account of the heavy cost, the Alathorayar (between Tovala Channel and the Nanjinad Puthanar Channel) should be extended from the Puliyurkurichi tank near Tazhakudi to where the Puthanar empties itself. The extension would supply water to all the fields simultaneously and there would be no occurrence of breaches. He also advocated the construction of tanks near the channels.

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Lastly, the Member spoke about the distribution of water. He added that the present method of inspection by canal officers moving about in motor cars did not afford facilities to the ryots to represent their grievances to them and prayed that the tour programme of those officers might be published in the Gazette well in advance and posted up in several places. The practice of referring complaints against canal officers to those officers themselves did not produce any beneficial result, but made the condition of the ryots more wretched.

The maintenance work of the channels was not being attended to by the Public Works Department in time, which resulted in loss of cultivation. The Member prayed that repairs might be arranged to be attended to in time and in consultation with the leading and influential men of the locality.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to more canals, it is a matter for consideration by experts. I shall issue orders to the effect that the tour programme of the P. W. D. officers in charge of Kodayar irrigation should be published in advance.

56. Irrigation of certain portions of the Eraniel taluk.

Mr. Kanakku Matevan Krishnan (Member, Eraniel Taluk) brought to notice the condition of agriculture in the four *pakuthies* of his taluk not affected by the Kodayar scheme and depending for water supply on the rain-fed tanks in those *pakuthies*. The water supply from those tanks was very precarious and most of the tanks were silted up, no repairs having been done to them since the abolition of the Irrigation Maramat Department. As matters stood, harvest invariably failed for want of rain at the proper time. This was due to Government not taking any steps for the restoration and maintenance of the tanks upon which they solely depended for water for purposes of cultivation. It used to be the custom to allot separate funds for these tanks when the Irrigation Maramat Department was in existence and the practice stopped with the construction of the Pachipara Dam, as Government believed that water from the reservoir would be useful for these fields also. During the hot season, however, no water was available even for drinking purposes. These difficulties were pointed out at several sessions of the Assembly, but to no purpose. He referred to the Irrigation Conference at Nattalam at which the Peishkar was also present and said that they agreed to contribute to the restoration of tanks as the Peishkar gave them to understand that the people of Neyyattinkara and Vilavankod had agreed to contribute half the cost of the restoration of tanks in their taluks. But he said that the custom, so far as his taluk was concerned, was for the Government to restore these tanks at their own cost. Their assent to contribute was made under compulsion and they should be freed from contribution so far as minor irrigation works were concerned. Then coming to the Kodayar Project, the Member said that the Tiruvitancode channel, though designed to run a distance of 26 miles and 4,600 feet was now only 21 miles in length and stopped in Vazhvachagoshtam and that their petitions and representations to extend the channel to the remaining five miles had no effect till now. He represented that, as all the other channels had been opened and as they were willing to give land free of compensation, the work might be arranged to be taken in hand and completed soon so as to afford some relief to them. The work would not be very prohibitive. He referred to the work done by the Special Irrigation Officer, Mr. Viraraghava Aiyar, and said that if the Irrigation and the Revenue Departments co-operated with the Special Officer, more *puduvals* could be registered and cultivated.

The Member also prayed for a small canal being cut open from Erattakara channel near Rajakamangalam, thereby benefiting nearly 600 acres of wet lands. He said that the catchment area in the Kodayar reservoir had been registered and allowed to be cultivated by the Kanies who did damage to the trees. The Kanies should be evicted and the catchment area should not be registered. The Pachipara Dam should be raised by 10 feet. He prayed for :—

(1) the inspection of the tanks by the Dewan and their restoration in the order of urgency ; and

(2) the extension of the Tiruvitancode channel up to the 26th mile.

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